

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly enter the following amendments to the specification:

Please replace the last full paragraph on page 8 of the specification with the following paragraph, which has been marked up to show the amendments thereto:

-- Optionally, in accordance with exemplary embodiment such as those shown in Figure 3, the interstitial regions 90- created between respective segments 70 may be filled with a filler material 100, such as plastic, fabric, metal or the like ~~(not shown)~~, or alternatively may be left open. In the alternative, however, by leaving regions 90 open, access to the structure supported may be maintained --